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BLABY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1939.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The presentation of this my thirty-eighth Annual Report on the Health of your District was postponed pending receipt of statistics from the Registrar General.

STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population is 34,290, a slightly higher figure being used for calculating the Birth Rate.

Births,	legitimate	M. 239	F. 244	Total	483
"	illegitimate	M. 12	F. 5	Total	17
	Totals:-	251	249		500

Birth-rate (calculated on a population of 34,360) ... 14·5

Birth-rate for England & Wales ... ... 15·0

Still-births. 23. All legitimate.

Deaths. Males 151. Females 161. Total 312

Non-civilian deaths registered after 3rd September are excluded.

Crude Death-rate ... ... 9·0

Comparative Death-rate (i.e. allowing for sex and age distribution) 8·7

Death-rate for England & Wales ... ... 12·1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age (all legitimate) ... 15

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births 30

Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales 50

Causes of Death.

	Males.	Females.
All Causes.	151	161
Whooping Cough	-	2
Influenza	5	3
Respiratory tuberculosis	8	6
Other tuberculosis	1	3
G.P.I. Tabes, etc.	-	1
Cancer, malignant disease	18	22
Diabetes	1	4
Cerebral haemorrhage etc.	12	13
Heart disease	33	27
Other circulatory diseases	4	9
Bronchitis	11	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	3
Other respiratory diseases	2	4
Peptic ulcer	1	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	-
Appendicitis	2	-
Cirrhosis of the liver	3	-
Other liver diseases	-	1
Other digestive diseases	1	3
Nephritis	3	1
Puerperal sepsis	-	-
Other puerperal causes	-	2
Congenital causes	7	4
Senility	6	17
Suicide	2	3
Other violence	10	7
Other defined diseases	12	14
Ill-defined or not known	1	1

A hundred of the deaths occurred outside the District, chiefly in Hospitals and Institutions.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Having acted as Medical Officer of Health for this District until 30th June 1940, I was succeeded by Dr. Killick Millard who had been for many years Medical Officer of Health for the City of Leicester. It was with real regret that I retired, but the Council is to be congratulated on having secured the services of Dr. Millard.

The Sanitary Inspector devotes the whole of his time to his official duties which are now more manifold than ever.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:-

Extensions of the Leicester Corporation's mains were made in several parishes in order to keep pace with building development. The Council's supply at Stoney Stanton is filtered and chlorinated. It has been extended so as to supply Sharnford which had previously derived its supply from shallow wells.

In addition to numerous chemical analyses of well waters, 13 samples were bacteriologically examined, 12 proving unsatisfactory. 25 wells were closed and in 42 instances the public supply was laid on in lieu of well water.

The public supplies are periodically analysed and bacteriologically examined. The latest reports which I saw were all satisfactory.

During the dry weather there was a shortage at Aston Flamville.

Drainage and Sewerage:-

Sewerage extensions measuring about a mile were completed on Dominion Road and Liberty Road, Glenfield. Extensions and imporvements in sewage disposals were in course of construction at Braunstone and also at the Croft and Huncote disposal works.

During the year 39 cesspools were abolished, the drains being connected with the sewer. At the end of 1939 there were 198 in the District.

Closet Accommodation:-

Approximate number in District:-

(1) Privies (excluding those on farms)	2
(2) Pail-closets	2,658
(3) Water-closets	4,945
Pail-closets replaced by water-carriage	41
Privies converted to pail-closets ...	Nil

Public Cleansing:-

A comprehensive scheme for the systematic collection of refuse from all parishes by direct labour commenced in 1936. A suitable site having been selected for controlled tipping, the scheme has continued in excellent working order throughout the year. As stated in my last two Annual Reports, it has been an example of controlled tipping at its best. Cesspools were emptied quarterly.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

Total number of complaints received during the year ...	49
Total number of inspections made for all purposes ...	4,197
" " " defects or nuisances discovered ...	401
" " " notices served - Statutory 2. Informal 145.	147
" " " notices complied with " 2. " 198.	200
" " " summonses issued	Nil

Regulated Buildings:-

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District, and there are no Canal Boats registered. No offensive Trades are established in the District. No Van dwellers came under observation.

Shops and Offices:-

Sanitary conveniences.	Defects found 31.	Remedied 22.
Ventilation	" " 14.	" 11.

Smoke Abatement:-

There are 35 factory and works chimneys in the District. 11 smoke observations are recorded, but no action was found to be necessary.

Swimming Baths and Pools:-

None in the District.

Eradication of bed bugs:-

No infested houses were located during the year.

Schools:-

The public elementary schools throughout the District are well maintained and all save Kilby, Sharnford and Thurlaston have a piped supply of water.

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H O U S I N G.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts 1,109

Number of inspections made for the purpose 2,156

(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 474

Number of inspections made for the purpose 513

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 42

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 109

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 271

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners 2

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners ... ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:- Nil

4. Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.

(a)	i.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	10
	ii.	Number of families dwelling therein ...	10
	iii.	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	74
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c)	i.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	16
	ii.	Number of persons concerned in such cases	104
(d)		Cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Sites were purchased and plans were prepared for the erection of 11 houses and land was purchased for the erection of three more.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:-

The Sanitary Inspector submits the following particulars for the year:-

Retailers: (Other than Cow Keepers).	No. on Register		12
	No. of inspections		41
	No. of contraventions found ...		24
	No. of contraventions remedied		25
Producers: (including producers who retail their own milk).	No. on Register		166
	No. of inspections of premises		354
		Found.	Remedied.
	No. requiring cleansing	33	39
	No. requiring structural alterations	32	23
	Other contraventions	30	30

Approximate No. of milch cows in District 1,200

Licenses were granted to one Producer and four Retailers of Pasteurized Milk and to eight distributors of Accredited Milk.

20 Designated milk samples and 76 other samples were submitted for examination at the County Laboratory. Only two of the former and four of the latter failed to reach the required degree of bacterial cleanliness.

Unsatisfactory samples are followed up, advice or warning is given and further samples are taken.

Meat and other Foods:-

No. of public abattoirs in district Nil

Private slaughter houses:-

	In Jan. 1939.	In Dec. 1939.
No. registered	-	-
No. licenced	22	21
No. of inspections of premises other than at times of slaughter		84
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter		27

There are no knacker yards in the District.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1,049	42	11	3,114	1,164
Number inspected	504	39	4	468	339
All Diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc:-

No. of inspections 47

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale:-

No. of inspections 31

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Notifiable Disease.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet fever	40	30	-
Diphtheria	23	23	-
Pneumonia	6	-	10
Enteric fever	1	-	-
Erysipelas	19	4	-
Measles	2	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	2	-	-

SCARLET FEVER:-

This disease was slightly less prevalent than in 1938, when 43 cases were notified, 50 having been notified in 1937, 85 in 1936 and 100 in 1935.

The distribution of the cases was as follows:-
Blaby 10, Braunstone 5, Cosby 6, Countesthorpe 2, Enderby 2, Glenfields 5, Huncote 1, Kilby 4, Sapcote 1, Thurlaston 1 and Whetstone 3. Total 40.

Most of the cases were of a very mild type and all recovered.

DIPHTHERIA:-

The notified cases were as follows:-
Blaby 4, Braunstone 4, Cosby 1, Countesthorpe 2, Enderby 4, Glenfields 1, Glen Parva 3, Littlethorpe 1, Thurlaston 1 and Whetstone 2. Total 23. All recovered.

The case of Enteric fever occurred in Braunstone.

The following table shows the age-distribution of the TUBERCULOSIS cases:-

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1 and under 5 years	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
5 " " 10 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 " " 15 "	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20 "	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
20 " " 25 "	-	3	-	-	2	1	-	1
25 " " 35 "	4	4	-	1	3	1	-	1
35 " " 45 "	2	-	-	1	2	2	-	1
45 " " 55 "	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 " " 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	8	10	2	5	8	6	1	3

DYSENTERY:-

Early in January, 1940, there was brought to my notice a number of cases of a dysenteric type in the parish of Croft. The earliest ascertained case had commenced on 15th December, 1939, and the large majority of subsequent cases occurred during the last fortnight of the year and early in January. The prevalence had all but ceased when there was a slight recrudescence in February, eight subsequent cases being recorded.

Altogether 112 cases were investigated, all but a few in Croft and the remainder in the nearby parishes of Narborough, Cosby and Enderby. Most of the cases were mild and there were doubtless other cases of so transient a nature as to have passed unnoticed. Some, however were severe and three deaths are recorded. The cases were of all ages and were fairly evenly distributed between the sexes.

In investigating the origin and nature of the outbreak we enjoyed the co-operation of the Regional Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health and the bacteriological examinations were conducted at the Ministry's Regional Laboratory. These proved the disease to be bacillary Dysentery of the Flexner type.

Exhaustive investigation of the cases, chiefly by the Deputy County Medical Officer, failed to establish either water or any particular milk distribution as a vehicle of infection. Bread and other foods were enquired into, but here also no proof of infection could be established. I am myself of opinion that case-to-case infection, most manifest in several families, combined with possible transmission by milk to account for most of the cases. In reality no food which had been handled by a patient or by a carrier can be excluded. Sweets passed in this manner could convey the infection among children as could also school contact.

On one point we are unanimous. The water-supply at first very naturally open to suspicion is completely exonerated. The supply which comes from a quarry is very hard but is of a high degree of organic purity and is moreover filtered and chlorinated. By no means all the patients had drunk this water.

The supply was examined by one of the Ministry's Engineering Inspectors and certain improvements were carried out.

The outbreak led to systematic disinfection of pail closets and precautions against patients or presumptive carriers taking any part in the handling or distribution of food.

In connection with the diagnosis and supervision of Infectious Disease the following examinations were made at the County Council's Laboratory:-

Sputa for Tuberculosis	109
Swabs for Diphtheria	94
Milk examinations (bacteriological) ...	287
Urine (general and bacteriological) ...	55
Urine for Tuberculosis	33
Widal tests for Typhoid Fever	9
Blood for Wasserman test	5
Differential blood counts	12
Sewage and water analysis	29
Miscellaneous	6
Total:-	639

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces:-

1. Inspections:-

Factories (with mechanical power)	Inspections	82
	Written notices	29
Workshops (without mechanical power)	Inspections	68
	Written notices	28
Other Premises	Inspections	62
	Written notices	31
Total:-	Inspections	212
	Written notices	88

2. Defects found:-

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:-

	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	17	14
Inadequate ventilation	6	6
Overcrowding	1	1
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	2	2
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	9	8
Unsuitable or Defective Sanitary Accommodation	6	6
Not separate for Sexes	3	3
Total:-	44	40

It was not found necessary to refer any case to H.M. Inspector.

No instances of Outwork on Unwholesome Premises came under observation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health
until 30th June, 1940.

Kirby Muxloe,

Leicester.

19th October, 1940.